KLEW-TV July 2011 – Sept. 2011

Home Rule Petition:

Citizens from Asotin County are frustrated with county government they see as inefficient and unresponsive to their concerns. For a more efficient and smaller government, they would like to see the Home Rule petition placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Scams/Identity Theft:

Scams have been on the rise regionally & locally preying on innocent victims to obtain people's personal and financial information. Different types of scams happening are phishing, mail, fraudulent texting and telephone calls. More awareness of scams need addressed to public.

Idaho Re-Districting Political Boundaries:

Comprise between panel members of republicans and democrats in setting the new political boundaries for legislative and congressional districts in the state of Idaho.

Mega Loads Transport on Hwy 12 & Hwy 95:

The environmental and safety impact of transporting oversized shipments of ConocoPhillips and Imperial Oil loads to the Kearl Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada is of concern.

City of Lewiston/Nez Perce County Budget Cuts:

Due to the current economy citizens are concerned about maintaining current levels of services and not increasing property taxes.

KLEW-TV Issues/Programs List July 2011 – Sept. 2011

The Need to Address Home Rule Petition

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/9/11, 6:00p.m.

Duration: 0:46

Description: KLEW News reported that the citizen group, Respect Asotin County, gathers the 868 signatures needed for their home rule petition. The measure can now be put before voters to decide whether to change from a commissioner-run to a chartered form of governance with a certain number of elected free-holders. Asotin County auditor Darla McKay says she's spent the last two days going through the petition. Of the more than 1,000 signatures she's checked so far, 890 are valid. She says there's more than 500 left to go through, but because she reached the needed minimum, she'll finish up at a later date.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/16/11, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:03

Description: KLEW News reported that Asotin County Commissioners have until the end of the month to decide what to do with the home rule petition submitted by citizen group Respect Asotin County. Deputy Prosecutor Jan Risley reviewed the petition and says it doesn't meet constitutional guidelines. She says because the petition doesn't set a number of free-holders or ask for them to be elected, it may not make it to the November ballot. In an email sent July 19th, Sheryl Moss of the Washington Secretary of State's office stated the petition doesn't need to contain the number of freeholders and that commissioners would determine that, after the petition was submitted. Respect Asotin County says their efforts are aimed at giving citizens a voice in their county government.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/15/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:35

Description: KLEW News reported that Asotin County's home rule petition has been shot down. The citizen group, Respect Asotin County, gathered almost 1,400 valid signatures on their home rule petition. They needed just over 860. The measure, however, has been denied. Asotin County Auditor Darla McKay tells KLEW concern over wording in the petition has stopped it from moving forward. Respect Asotin County aimed to change Asotin County from a commissioner-run to a chartered form of governance with elected free-holders.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/29/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:19

Description: KLEW News reported that Asotin County Commissioners made their decision on home rule this morning. It will not be put on the November ballot. The petition was submitted by citizen group Respect Asotin County, and garnered 1,400 valid signatures well over the target of 868. Respect Asotin County says they will attempt to get home rule on the ballot again.

The Need to Address Scams/Identity Theft

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/29/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:49

Description: KLEW News reported that a Lewiston man recently encountered a telephone scam. Andrew Davis a computer technician knows a lot about personal computers so when he received a call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft saying his computer was infected, he smelled a rat. The caller told Andrew to open his event viewer in Windows where he can see a list of items, some in red with exclamation points. They wanted to show me things that were wrong with my computer and they were claiming that they wanted to fix it. That's when Andrew says the caller told him to download a program off of their website and asked for his credit card number. Andrew says there was nothing wrong with his computer and it's just another way criminals can access your personal information for identity theft.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/24/11 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:45

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Attorney General's office is warning bank customers of a new phishing scam that has recently hit people here in Lewiston and Moscow. The reports say customers are receiving phone calls or text messages claiming to be from various financial institutions including Wells Fargo Bank. The calls usually state the customer's account has been compromised and give instructions to reactivate their card. Attorney General Lawrence Wasden says customers should not respond to these messages. He is also reminding customers your bank will never ask you for your account number because they already know it.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/25/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:20

Description: KLEW News reported that a company called Corvus Law Group is mailing ads to Idaho homeowners inviting them to join scam lawsuits against their mortgage lenders. Attorney General Lawrence Wasden says the scam is a pretest to collect \$5,000 from homeowners. He says the business may ask homeowners for their credit card numbers or offer to set up a weekly payment plan. An attorney for Corvus Law Group issued a statement responding to the Attorney General's claim. It reads in part "Corvus is not engaged in such services nor is it perpetuating a fraud or same on Idaho residents in any way, shape or form. In Idaho, we are in the process of filing a federal lawsuit on behalf of numerous homeowners against Bank of America and other defendants for violating certain state and federal laws." The Attorney General's office says state and federal laws prohibit companies from charging upfront fees for foreclosure rescue or mortgage modification services.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/30/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:20

Description: KLEW News reported that a national debit card scam targeting Wells Fargo customers has hit the region. Moscow Police have received more than 30 complaints involving a telephone scam in connection with their Wells Fargo debit cards. Police say the scam involves a pre-recorded message, stating the individual's card was either frozen or deactivated. David Duke, Moscow Police Chief says through the automated call process they ask for personal information that you have to enter. Once you've entered that information, it says your card has been reactivated and then the message ends. Police say it's important to keep a tight grip on your banking matters especially when it comes to revealing personal and confidential information.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/14/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:31

Description: KLEW News reported that the Pullman Police Department received two confirmed reports of fraudulent advertisements on Craigslist. The advertisement direct prospective buyers to call a certain phone number, which happens to be a local business that didn't place the ad consequently the business has been flooded with phone calls. Pullman Police have launched a criminal investigation. The crime is a felony punishable by up to ten years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

The Need to Address Idaho's Re-Districting

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/4/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:38

Description: KLEW News reported that according to a new GOP backed plan for drawing Idaho's new political boundaries, eight Republican state senators who voted against Tom Luna's education reforms would run against incumbents. That's raising concerns about payback in the Capitol. Republican Redistricting Commissioner Lou Esposito introduced the plan. While Esposito promises he never looked specifically at who would be affected when he drew his map, the Idaho Statesman reports there's suspicion among those hit by his proposed changes that he's targeting moderates. Under Esposito's plan a third of the Legislature's current members could face incumbent competition.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/2/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:33

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho's six member redistricting panel continues to meet to set the state's new political boundaries for the next decade. Three republicans and three democrats make up the panel. Today, democrats introduced nearly a half dozen new maps that would carve up Idaho's 35 legislative districts to account for population changes. They're negotiating a plan to split up Idaho's first and second congressional districts along new borders. The panel is racing to meet a Tuesday deadline. That's when they have a constitutional obligation to have a redistricting map approved.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/5/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:27

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho redistricting panel adjourned today without agreeing to new political boundaries. They have until 5p.m. tomorrow to draw up the new plan. The best hope for a compromise may lie with Republican commissioner Lorna Finman and Democratic panelist Julie Kane, who've been working together on a proposal. There's still no guarantee, especially with GOP commissioner Lou Esposito and Democrat George Moses reportedly still feuding.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/6/11, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:36

Description: KLEW News reported that the six member panel drawing up Idaho's new political boundaries failed to finish by tonight's 5p.m. deadline. They now face a lawsuit in state Supreme Court that will likely order them back to Boise. The panel's final day saw two commissioners, Republican Lorna Finman and Democrat Julie Kane, strike a deal for northern Idaho legislative districts. But differences over splitting up Ada County and Idaho's sparsely populated southeast stymied a final pact. The panel also didn't agree to congressional district boundaries. The bi-partisan commission is made up of three republicans and three democrats.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/9/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:40

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Supreme Court is refusing to get involved in the failed effort to redraw the state's political boundaries at least for now. Today the high court dismissed a pair of lawsuits filed earlier this week after the redistricting commission failed to agree on new boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. The justices dismissed the lawsuits after concluding state law did not give them the authority to act. The state's political boundaries must be re-drawn every decade to reflect population changes. A panel of three republicans and three democrats had been working since June to draw new maps, but they failed to reach an agreement within 90 days.

The Need to Address Oversized Loads

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/11/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:37

Description: KLEW News reported that opponents of oil equipment megaloads on Highway 12 file a petition to have a recent recommendation on those megaloads reconsidered. Last month retired State Court District Judge Duff McKee ruled in support of Idaho Transportation Department decision to issue permits to Imperial Oil/Exxon Mobil for over-legal-limit loads. This afternoon attorneys for the opponents filed the reconsideration request. Laird Lucas, the attorney for the group Advocates for the West, says he believes there are clear errors in McKee's decision. Laird says McKee misapplied the legal standards raised by opponents. Both sides now wait for McKee's response to the request.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/26/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:45

Description: KLEW News reported that Independent Hearing Officer Judge Duff McKee says he will not reconsider his recommendation that Idaho Transportation Department allow Imperial oil/ExxonMobil megaloads to travel on Highway 12. Late last month McKee ruled in support of Idaho Transportation Department decision to issue permits for 200 plus overlegal-limit loads. Opponents petitioned the retired state district judge to reconsider the decision. McKee said in his ruling many of the opponent's arguments were merely restatements of previous arguments and no new information was presented. Opponents have 21 days to file exceptions to the ruling.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/8/11, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:40

Description: KLEW News reported that Imperial Oil/ExxonMobil announced today they're pursuing alternate routes for equipment headed to the Kearl Oil Project in Canada. The company says they plan to look for ways smaller modules can travel. Kearl Senior Project Manager Chris Allard says the company is working with state authorities to confirm new transportation plans that meet or exceed environmental and safety requirements. Allard says Highway 12 remains the preferred route, but continued delays have made it necessary to look for alternatives. The company is currently using an alternate route on State Highway 95. Imperial Oil says it's considering a route from the Port of Pasco, Washington to Interstate 90.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/19/11, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:41

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Transportation Department announced an ExxonMobil oversized shipment is scheduled to leave the Port of Lewiston Thursday night en route to the Idaho/Montana state line. The shipment will travel north on U-S 95 to the Interstate 90 interchange in Coeur d'Alene. It will then head east to the Idaho/Montana border. The permit issued for the shipment requires it to travel between 10p.m. and 5:30a.m. The shipment weighs more than 400,000 pounds, is 24 feet wide, 14 feet high and 208 feet long. The load will travel at a speed of about 35 miles an hour. Traffic delays will be limited to 15 minutes. Twenty-five locations have been identified to allow traffic to pass.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 9/7/11 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:28

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Transportation Department will issue permits for megaload transports on U.S. Highway 12. Director Brian Ness accepted the recommendations of a hearing officer to issue permits for Imperial Oil/ExxonMobil earlier today. The ruling brings the five month administrative hearing process on whether or not to allow the proposed shipments to a close. It's worth noting that a party may ask Ness to reconsider his decision by filing a motion within 14 days.

The Need to Address City of Lewiston/N.P. County Budget Cuts

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/7/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:36

Description: KLEW News reported that Lewiston officials are in the middle of budget talks. With a long list of department wants, will they be able to meet the demands? City Manager Jim Bennett says there's some tough work ahead to cut down the wants and evaluate the city's needs. So whether it's this year or in a future budget, Bennett says it's all out on the table for the council's consideration. Bennett says revenue is always a concern and despite some new construction in the city, the council will have to take a serious look into the possibility of a property tax increase.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/15/11, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:05

Description: KLEW News reported that as Lewiston city budget talks continue a few increasing numbers have some taxpayers worried. In the proposed budget, councilors are discussing a 3 percent property tax increase, the maximum allowed under Idaho state law. The city council forewent a tax increase last year. City Manager Jim Bennett says this year he's presented the council with the different scenarios. "We set it up this year so that we gave them the incremental approach. If you were to do a 1% property tax increase, here's what you could do with that as far as providing for some of the needs in the community. One of those proposed needs is a one percent cost of living increase for non-unionized city employees." Bennett says employees have gone without increases for 2 years now.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 7/29/11 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:02

Description: KLEW News reported that today the City of Lewiston released it's "citizen's guide to the budget." In the guide City Manager Jim Bennett says the nation's economy continues to challenge city revenues and expenditures. Bennett says the council and staff have worked long hours to get the budget to where it is today. Along with a 3 percent hike in property taxes, citizens also face an eight point 5 percent increase in water fees. The guide cites a five year plan that corrects problems with hydrants, as well as replacing meters and water mains. Mayor Kevin Poole says the council has taken a look at the needs, and now they need citizen's help in figuring out their priorities. Poole says the bottom line is cost. The guides are available at City Hall. The first public hearing on the budget will be August 8th.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/19/11, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:48

Description: KLEW News reported that Nez Perce County officials came under fire last night as they tried to answer citizen concerns about next year's budget. Commissioners sat in front of about fifty citizens and employees to try and explain many of the county's expenses and some of the tough cuts that were made. Among the cuts made was over \$90,000 to local charities. Citizen group Taxpayers against Unfair Taxation member David Estes questioned expenses to the sheriff's office and the prosecutors office. Prompting prosecutor Dan Spickler to defend his budget and affirm his attempt at fiscal responsibility. Estes also questioned the public defender contracts claiming they made more than private practicing attorneys. Officials clarified seemingly confusing budget items and expressed their own frustration for unfunded state and federal mandates.

Program: KLEW-TV News Date/Time: 8/30/11, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:04

Description: KLEW News reported that just over two weeks ago the Lewiston city Council passed a 64 million dollar budget that included a 2 point 5 percent property tax increase. City Manager Jim Bennett says since that time, he's been working to make the necessary cuts to make the reduction in property tax revenue work. The Lewiston Fire Department has been operating with just one division chief for a few years now. Bennett says traditionally the department operates with three. Bennett says while fire screws have been able to adapt it does strain resources. Bennett says he still hopes to find a way to fund the position if not for 1012 then for 2013. Interim Chief Kevin Kalbfleisch was not available for comment on how this blow would affect fire operations.